

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 6, 7 and 12 are amended. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 7 can be found at least in paragraphs [0088] and [0089] of the specification. Support for the amendments to claims 6 and 12 can be found at least in paragraphs [0115] and [0116] of the specification. No new matter is added.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claim 5 contains allowable subject matter.

The Office Action rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Onuma et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0026213) in view of von Alten (U.S. Patent No. 6,873,840) and further in view of Nakamura et al. (EP 1 286 297) and Asakura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,744,349); rejects claims 6 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nakamura in view of Yamasaki (U.S. Patent No. 6,075,454) and further in view of von Alten; and rejects claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nakamura in view of Funakoshi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,861,816) and further in view of Yamasaki and von Alten. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Onuma, von Alten, Nakamura, Asakura, Yamasaki and Funakoshi, alone or combined, fail to disclose and would not have rendered obvious the claimed combinations of features recited in independent claims 1, 6, 7 and 12. The above references fail to disclose and would not have rendered obvious:

- "wherein the engine starting switch does not start the engine of the vehicle if the electronic key is certified by the certifying device of the electronic key for starting the engine but the electronic key is an electronic key whose ID information is not memorized in the memory, after the vehicle door is unlocked by the door lock control device," as recited in independent claim 1 (emphasis added);

- "wherein the engine starting switch does not start the engine of the vehicle if the electronic key is certified by the certifying device of the electronic key for starting the engine but the information that the human body certification information is certified is not written in the electronic key, after the vehicle door is unlocked by the door lock control device," as recited in independent claim 6 (emphasis added);
- "wherein the door locking control device does not unlock the door of the vehicle if the electronic key is certified by the certifying device of the electronic key for starting the engine but the electronic key is an electronic key whose ID information is not memorized in the memory, after the engine is started by the engine starting switch," as recited in independent claim 7 (emphasis added); and
- "wherein the door locking control device does not unlock the door if the electronic key is certified by the certifying device of the electronic key for starting the engine but the information that the human body certification information is certified is not written in the electronic key, after the engine is started by the engine starting switch," as recited in independent claim 12 (emphasis added).

In Onuma, if a door is unlocked based on an ID certification of an electronic key, the user can start the engine by certifying a second ID that is a shortened version of the ID of the electronic key. However, if the door is unlocked without certifying the ID of the electronic key (e.g., if the door is unlocked mechanically), then the entire electronic key ID must be transmitted to permit starting of the engine.

Von Alten merely discloses a system that unlocks a door if user card certification and user ID certification are transmitted. Thereafter, only user card certification is required to start the engine.

The features of independent claims 1, 6, 7 and 12 allow for a high level of security to be maintained at the second operation (i.e., unlocking the door or starting the engine) even if

the second operation is permitted without requiring human body certification. The process of permitting the second operation is thus simplified without sacrificing security (see, e.g., paragraphs [0093] and [0094] of the specification).

For at least these reasons, independent claims 1, 6, 7 and 12 are patentable over Onuma, von Alten, Nakamura, Asakura, Yamasaki and Funakoshi. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections.

The Office Action rejects claims 2-4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Onuma in view of von Alten and further in view of Nakamura, Asakura and Sues et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,229,648); rejects claims 8, 9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nakamura in view of Funakoshi and further in view of Yamasaki, von Alten and Denison et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0097141); and rejects claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nakamura in view of Funakoshi and further in view of Yamasaki, von Alten, Denison and Goodman et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0043566). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Sues, Denison and Goodman fail to remedy the deficiencies of Onuma, von Alten, Nakamura, Asakura, Yamasaki and Funakoshi. Further, claims 2-4 and 8-11 variously depend from independent claims 1 and 7, and are patentable for at least their dependency from independent claims 1 and 7, as well as for the additional features they recite. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Attachment:
Request for Continued Examination

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